

C. # 1847

Evidentiary Document No. 5385.

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The accused: Fujinura Unit, Army Capt Kato, Kihachiro, gives the following evidence: being duly sworn.
(see form of oath attached)

Q. What unit did you belong to on the 14th Nov 44?
A. I was a member of the KATSU KIKA also known as the KATO Force.

Q. What did that force consist of - the number of Japanese and natives?

A. It was composed of 4 Japanese and about 16 Indonesians.

Q. What were the duties of that force?

A. The guarding of this place OTAKWA. The relations with the natives, seeing that they are controlled.

Q. Do you remember an Australian being captured at OTAKWA about 14 Nov?

A. There was a prisoner captured on the 12th November.

Q. When the prisoner was captured, what was done with him?

A. After his capture he was kept for two or three days and taken to the rear.

Q. Where at?

A. First of all he was taken to INOOGA and from there to KAPARAPOKA.

Q. Was he wounded when he was taken prisoner?

A. No.

Q. After the prisoner had been captured did you send any signals to 5 Div HQ?

A. In a signal sent to this HQ amongst other things mentioned I told them that I had a prisoner.

Q. It was just a normal situation report sent in by you?

A. The fact that I had a prisoner was mentioned last.

Q. When did you send that signal, how soon after the prisoner was captured?

A. About 2 days after the prisoner was captured.

Q. Did you get a reply to that signal?

A. No, there was no reply to that.

Q. Did you send another signal later on relating to the prisoner?

A. A good deal later I sent another enquiry "What will be done with the prisoner?"

Q. Did you get a reply?

A. I got a reply very much later I think early in March 45.

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A. A good deal later I sent another enquiry "What will be done with the prisoner?"

Q. Did you get a reply?

A. I got a reply very much later I think early in March 45.

Q. What did that signal say?

A. The signal was "GENSHI SHOBUN". "I want it carried out - disposal locally". "You are directed to carry out the disposal SHOBUN locally". "Want SHOBUN carried out locally".

Q. Did you understand that signal to mean that you were to carry out the execution on the spot?

A. As soon as I received the telegram, under the conditions of the war situation at the moment, I understood that I was to kill the prisoners.

Q. Who signed the signal?

A. The Chief of Staff.

Q. What would you have done with the prisoner if you had not received the signal from Div HQ.

A. I was wanting him to be sent back and I would have done so if I had not got the signal.

Q. What were your reactions to the signal?

A. The prisoner and I had lived together and I had begun to understand the feelings of the Australian and I was very sorry it had to be done but seeing it was an order it had to be carried out.

Q. What would have happened to you if you had not carried out the order?

A. As it was an order from a superior I actually did not consider what would happen to me, it had to be carried out and I was very sorry.

Q. How did you treat the prisoner?

A. The prisoner was housed in a portion of the house that I lived in when I was in KAPARAPOKA and I was aware that foreigners ate more meat than Japanese and I used to try to get more meat for him when the opportunity arose.

Q. Did you ever give the prisoner medical supplies?

A. I had given him medicine for malaria and for stomach trouble.

Q. Do you remember the day of the execution?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you say to the prisoner on that day?

A. I told him "On orders received you are to be shot". Having known that the prisoner was a Christian I asked him if he would like 10 minutes to pray.

Q. After the execution how was the prisoner buried?

A. In following the Japanese custom we straightened the body out and put the arms resting on the chest and buried him, and covered the grave right up.

Q. You gave the same burial to the prisoner that you would have given to a normal Japanese soldier?

A. Yes.

Q. If you had not received this order from Div HQ would you have executed the prisoner?

A. I had no authority to kill any prisoner. I would have evacuated him to the rear at the first opportunity.

Q. You were your own boss, there was no one senior to you in your particular area?

A. Yes.

Q. You heard the other witness say you were about 300 kilometres from the nearest HQ?

A. Yes, I heard that.

Q. So if you had kept this prisoner alive for some additional time there wasn't much likelihood of your getting into trouble with 5 Div HQ was there?

A. An order had been received to carry out this execution therefore I carried out without any thought of not receiving any punishment myself if I did not carry it out.

Q. How long was it before WILLIAMS was well. Wasn't he sick for some period.

A. He was down with malaria 2 or 3 times and he had a slight touch of dysentery.

Q. You went to the execution yourself didn't you?
A. Yes.

Q. And ordered the firing party to fire?
A. Yes.

Q. Who did you use, natives?
How many?
A. 5.

Q. Did they all have ball ammunition?
A. Yes, I gave them 5 each.

Q. Did you know of anything wrong that this man WILLIAMS had done?
A. No.

Q. But you suggested at one stage that WILLIAMS was a spy hadn't you?
A. I did not say such a thing.

Q. How long have you been a Capt?
A. April 1945.

Q. How long did you have a commission before that?
A. Nov. 40 I became an officer.

Q. Have you ever had any teaching on what is the proper treatment of prisoners of war?
A. I was never taught anything. All my training was in connectic with war. At schools we were not likely to be more than Capts we were not instructed.

Q. Have you ever heard of International Law relating to prisoners of war?
A. I didn't know anything about International Law but I had heard that prisoners of war were to be put in a stockade and remove them to higher HQ as soon as possible.

Q. And how are they to be treated?
A. I don't know.

Q. Do you think it is a good thing to kill a defenceless man?
A. I think it is a very bad thing. I myself was very upset about it.

THE DEFENDING OFFICER:

Q. What is your civilian occupation?
A. I was on the technical side in a company which made glass cement etc.

Q. You were not a permanent soldier?
A. I had been in the Army since 1939.

Q. But you were not a permanent soldier?
A. I was called up in 1939 and I have been in ever since, I don't know whether I am a permanent soldier or not.

Q. Was the school you went to a Reserve Officers' School and not a school for the Permanent Army?
A. Reserve Officers' School.

THE COURT:

Q. When did you first mention the signal you had received to the previous witness.
A. I first told the Lt. in a letter I wrote.

Q. How long after you received the signal?
A. I think it was 2 or 3 days after I received it.

Q. Why didn't you kill the prisoner within the first few days of receiving that order?
A. It never entered my head to kill him.

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Q. Do you agree it would have been wrong to kill the prisoner at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. I didn't consider anything about the killing. I arrived on the night after he had been captured and my thought was to move him to the rear, it didn't enter my head whether it was right or wrong.

Q. Why do you think it is a bad thing to kill a defenceless prisoner of war who has committed no offence?

A. A prisoner of war had no means of defending himself and his weapons have been taken and I had also heard that a prisoner of war should not be executed. Therefore I knew it was wrong.

R. P. 83(B) complied with.

THE DEFENDING OFFICER: That is all the evidence I have.

I certify that this sheet and the four preceding sheets bearing my signature contain a true copy of the official record of evidence of Captain KATO KIHACHIRO contained in the proceedings of Military Court held at Morotai on 14th January, 1946, relating to the trial of the said Captain KATO, KIHACHIRO on the charge of murdering a prisoner of war at KAPAKAPOKA, Dutch New Guinea, between 10 March 45 and 20 March 45.

/s/ T. Mornane Lt. Col.

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/s/ T. Mornane Lt. Col.

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警備打撃隊 三軍大尉 聖藤喜一郎 大正三宣誓書後次心平証言人
(添附審査書参照)

問、五十四年十月十四日午下四時、部隊二時原、午下五時分。
答、私、加藤洋蔵、セミナリヤウカガキ、一見する。

問、某、部隊、どう編成する事である。日本人の現住民、數。

答、之に四脚、日本人十六名、ノ下木子一人を編成する事より。

問、部隊、任務は何ですか。

答、尋ねておき、警備下さい。之は懇親關係にて、彼等が良き聯繫ラシテ半ハタマツ取扱付心下す事。

問、丁度、十月十四日漢口アクラ、於テ而後、洲人被捕令ナシト記憶す
事多矣。

答、十月十三日、捕へテ待機ノ如リ事より。

問、之の任務が捕令之後、丁度何か、通信ヲ皆正節園司令部ニ送リシタ。

答、私、司令部へ宛テ通信中止代、奉行、一續二行廢タラ捕令白報書

送りシ。

問、コト行廢ニ就キ人質ヲハサ候ニ何か、通信ヲ出立シタ。

答、今迄経テテ、私、此一度、コト行廢ヲス忍カト云々、曾問、ヲ發ヒシテ。

問、回答アリマス。

答、大變、憤テ五更前、音羽、御本陣、皆次第回答接続シ。

問、之の通信は何と書いたリマス。

答、之の通信は、「近頃、現地分、ノアリ」と、即ち、私、之が現地
分ニ附合テヨドク望ム。又、現地、今、附合ヲ命ハズ、現地ニ於キヤハ
コトヲ許シ、ハス。

問、丁度久々、通信ヲ貴公が現地ニ赴行ベキモ、丁度解ヒシタ。

答、之を取ル、同時に、私、當時、職務ヲ見テ、行廢事、ノアリ得シ。

問、某、通信は誰が署名した。

答、參謀長、大

問、丁度、處刑、日記憶シテス。

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答
問

問：「日下木人」何處處死せらる。

答：松木根、門脇、命令三條、貴重な公射殺せらる。

松木、停廢が基督教徒でアドラー等十人十分間祈禱せらる。

許さず。

問：死刑後、停廢如何三番アラカカ

答：日本習慣二條、或々死体ヲ眞直ニ兩腕ノ胸ニ載せ埋木墓ニ盛りシ。

× × × ×

問：貴重子自身死刑場所へ行ひ至セラ。

答：行キシタ。

問：「三浦」領執行隊、射殺コ命セラスル。

答：サウス。

× × × ×

余、余、署久ヲ有ス、本紙並ニ前田某ハ九四五年五月十四日より一月置
年三月二十日テ三浦領「三一寺ニ」「カバ木カ」二合、停廢如ヲ殺害
名廉三俊、陸軍大尉加藤喜八郎、審理之關、九四六年五月十四日モ
ノ、署連サタ軍事裁判官、裁官記録中二合、外陸軍大尉加藤
喜八郎、証言、公式記録、皇正社字本ノ念念ナシトシ入。

陸軍中佐 下モ不二ノ署名

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閣、久利後、”停廢ハ如何ニ存ラシカ

六
八
八
三
一

問：畢竟行自身處刑場所行之步子？

答：不行矣。

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余、余著有「本紀」前四葉ハ「九四五五年四月十四日」より「九五
年三月二十日」テ「兩頃」ニキニ「カバラホカ」合テ、得房知ヲ役者
（足利三氏）達軍大尉加藤喜八郎、審理工閥ハ「九四六年四月十四日」モ
ノニ開廷サタ軍事裁判、裁軍記録中ニ合テ、「化達軍大尉、加藤
喜八郎」、証言、公式記録、吳正志字本ノ合金人トシテ証人。

アリナリ／署名